

2002P14189US01; 60,427-606

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 remain in the application including independent claims 1 and 12. New dependent claims 19-20 have been added. Claims 1-11 have been allowed. Claims 13-17 are indicated as allowable.

The amendments to claims 5-7 are not related to any rejection or objection set forth in the present action. Claims 5-7 have solely been amended to correct an error and to provide consistent terminology throughout the claims.

Claims 12 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vaudry (US 5542711). The examiner argues that Vaudry teaches a sleeve 8 having a first end 29 with seal 11 accepting an EGR tube (not shown), attached to a first intake component 13, and a second end 25 with seal 21 attached to a second intake component 18. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this interpretation of Vaudry.

Vaudry discloses a pipe 8 that is connected to another pipe that supplies the exhaust gases at 27. The pipe 8 is mounted to an intake manifold 1, which includes an integrally formed adapter 9. A collar 28 is positioned between the pipe 8 and the adapter 9, and a gasket 11 is positioned between the collar 28 and the adapter 9. A washer 10 is positioned between the manifold 1 and the sleeve 8. The washer 10 includes a collar portion 21 that abuts against an inner surface 18 of the manifold 1. The washer 10 includes a plurality of claws 24 that are separated by openings 22. The claws 24 grip the pipe 8.

Claim 12 requires a first seal positioned between a first end of the sleeve and a first intake component, and a second seal positioned between a second end of the sleeve and a second intake component. The examiner argues that component "21" is equivalent to the claimed

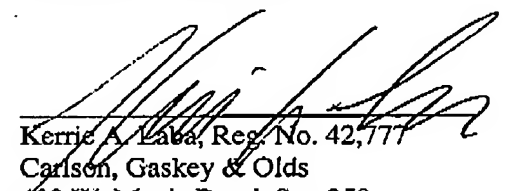
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second seal. Component 21 comprises a collar portion of washer 10. Washer 10 is not a seal as clearly shown by Figure 4. Further, collar portion 21 does not act as a seal and merely locates and holds washer 10 in place relative to wall 18. Thus, Vaudry does not anticipate claim 12.

Vaudry also does not anticipate claim 18. Claim 18 requires the sleeve to be spaced apart from the tube to define a gap that extends in a longitudinal direction. The examiner admits that Vaudry does not show the tube. Thus, Vaudry cannot teach the formation of a gap between the sleeve and the tube as set forth in claim 18.

Applicant respectfully asserts that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

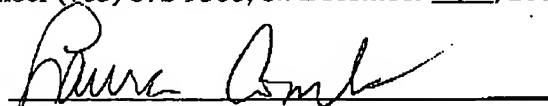


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Dated: December 1, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (703) 872-9306, on December 1, 2004.



Laura Combs